



# Water Quality NewsFlash

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**Non-Federal Dredge and Fill – SWRCB holds hearing on General WDR** – The State Water Resources Control Board plans to adopt *General Waste Discharge Requirements* for dredge and fill projects in waterways which are outside the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers, i.e., not in “waters of the U.S.” As a result of a 2001 court decision, certain “isolated” waters are no longer subject to Corps section 404 dredge and fill permits. With this General WDR, the SWRCB intends to continue regulating these projects using the authority of the State Water Code. During the March 30 hearing, several speakers requested changes. The Board staff expect to make minor modifications and present the General WDRs for approval at the meeting on May 4.

As drafted, discharges from projects meeting the following size criteria are eligible:

- Excavation and fill projects must have less than two-tenths of an acre and less than 400 linear feet of permanent or temporary impact.
- Dredging projects must dredge less than 50 cubic yards.

Projects that may be covered under the General WDRs include land development, detention basins, disposal of dredged material, bank stabilization, revetment, channelization, etc. Each Regional Board will have authority to determine the eligibility of specific discharges in its region. The General WDRs provide the Boards with an option for these smaller projects other than issuing waivers or individual WDRs. Larger projects in non-federal waters will need individual WDRs prepared by the Regional Boards. <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/agendas/2004/march/0330-12.doc>

**Aquatic Pesticide Permits – Adoption delayed, modifications possible** – The State Water Resources Control Board intends to issue two General NPDES Permits for the Discharge of Aquatic Pesticides to Surface Waters (the so-called “Mosquito Permit” and “Weed Permit”). Because of the extensive comments on these controversial permits, the Board staff intend to issue revised draft Permits by April 5, 2004 for public comment. The Board will only accept comments on the revised portions; comments are due by May 5. More information: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/docs/aquatic\\_pesticide\\_permits\\_update\\_031904.pdf](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/docs/aquatic_pesticide_permits_update_031904.pdf)

**Beach Bacteria – Falcons to the rescue** – Kiddie Beach in Channel Islands Harbor is typically ranked one of the most polluted beaches in SoCal on Heal the Bay’s Annual Beach Report Card. DNA testing of bacteria in the water indicates that bird feces contribute 65% of the pollution, human waste and sewage contribute 18%, with the rest coming from pets, rodents, and marine mammals. To help reduce the bacteria levels, the Task Force addressing the problem intends to hire a falconry service to chase away the seagulls. <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2004/03/31/state1454EST0078.DTL>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, [Betty\\_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov) (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, [fkrieger@msn.com](mailto:fkrieger@msn.com) with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted & searchable online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsfax/index.htm>